

Law and Society in Byzantium, 9th–12th Century

Dumbarton Oaks Symposium 1992

A Symposium on Law and Society in Byzantium was held at Dumbarton Oaks on May 1–3, 1992, under the direction of Professor Dieter Simon, Director of the Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte in Frankfurt. The investigation of the role of law in Byzantine society was focused on three large themes. The first dealt with the perceptions of legislators and judges regarding the role and importance of legislation; connected with that is the question of the actual knowledge and application of the law in the tribunals and in administration, as well as the relationship between civil and ecclesiastical law. The second theme was the image of law and jurists in historiography, rhetoric, art, and iconography; the use of images as legal documents, and the interplay between divine and worldly justice were among the topics examined by the speakers. Third, speakers addressed the question of the function of law, namely, whether legislation was a useful means of ordering and controlling society.

Program

Law and Society, I

Chair: Angeliki E. Laiou, Dumbarton Oaks

Dieter Simon, Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte
Ordering the World through Legislation

J. H. A. Lokin, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
The Significance of Law and Legislation in the Law-Books of the 9th–11th
Centuries

Paul Magdalino, University of St. Andrews
Justice and Finance in the Byzantine State, 9th–12th Centuries

Law and Society, II

Chair: Marie-Theres Fögen, Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte

Helen Saradi-Mendelovici, University of Guelph
Byzantine Tribunals: Problems in the Application of Justice and State Policy

Ruth Macrides, University of St. Andrews
The Competent Court

Eleftheria Papagianni, University of Athens
Eustathios Rhomaïos, Demetrios Chomatianos, and John Apokaukos: Three
Byzantine Judges and their Self-Definition of Law

Ioannis Konidakis, University of Athens
The Ubiquity of Canon Law

Attitudes Toward Law

Chair: Paul Magdalino, University of St. Andrews

George Dennis, The Catholic University of America
A Rhetorician Practices Law: Michael Psellos

Angeliki E. Laiou, Dumbarton Oaks
Law, Justice, and the Historians

Alexander Kazhdan, Dumbarton Oaks
Some Observations on the Byzantine Concept of Law: Three Authors of the
9th–12th Centuries

Art and Iconography

Chair: Alice-Mary Talbot, Dumbarton Oaks

Anna Kartsonis, University of Washington
Images and the Law: The Use of Images in Legal Contexts

Kathleen Corrigan, Dartmouth College
Representations of the Church Councils

Ioli Kalavrezou, Harvard University
Representation of Canonically Difficult Marriages (11th century)

Henry Maguire, Dumbarton Oaks
From the Evil Eye to the Eye of Justice: The Saints, Art, and Justice in
Byzantium

The Significance of Law for Society

Chair: J. H. A. Lokin, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

Gilbert Dagron, Collège de France
Legal Society and Legitimate Power

Marie-Theres Fögen, Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte
The Symbolic Functions of Legislation: Law-Giving as a Political Technique